

**Division of Water Supply – Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
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MEMORANDUM

To: Community Water Systems Using Ground Water Sources and
Serving a Population Less than or Equal to 10,000

From: Barker Hamill, Assistant Director
Water Supply Operations

Subject: New Monitoring Requirements and New Maximum Contaminant
Level (MCL) for Arsenic in Drinking Water

Date: November 4, 2005

This memo addresses the new monitoring requirements and new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic in drinking water for community water systems using ground water sources and serving a population less than or equal to 10,000. Effective January 23, 2006, the New Jersey Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic will be 5 parts per billion (ppb) which is lower than the USEPA MCL of 10 ppb that will also be effective on that date. Because of the new MCL, Federal and State Regulations will prohibit the use of EPA Method 200.7 and Standard Method 3120B and only allow EPA Method 200.8, EPA Method 200.9, SM 3113B, and SM 3114B to be used for analysis of arsenic in drinking water for compliance determinations. For the purpose of this memo, these four allowable methods (EPA Method 200.8, EPA Method 200.9, SM 3113B, and SM 3114B) will be referred to as the **“approved methods.”**

Most community water systems using only ground water sources and serving a population less than or equal to 10,000 are required to sample their points of entry for arsenic once every three years. For these systems, each sample must be collected in the second year of each three year compliance period (2006, 2009, 2012, etc.) Therefore, these systems are required to collect a sample for arsenic from each point of entry in 2006.

All samples taken in 2006 must be analyzed using one of the approved methods. If the result is less than the new MCL of 5 ppb, the point of entry should next be sampled in 2009. If the result is greater than 5 ppb, the system must begin quarterly sampling immediately.

Also note that the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water will review the results from the previous compliance period of 2002-2004 and may require that the 2006 sampling take place during the first quarter of 2006 if the earlier results exceeded 5 ppb. A separate letter will be sent to the water system in this situation.

Compliance for arsenic is measured on a running annual average at each point of entry, unless any one sample would cause the running annual average to exceed the new MCL of 5 ppb. The public water system must bring the water into compliance with the new MCL of 5 ppb within one year of receipt of results that demonstrate an exceedence that constitutes an MCL violation for arsenic.

Please contact Brad Koffler of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 if you have any questions.

C: Karen Fell, BSDW
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Water Compliance and Enforcement